



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

August 2017 – There will be no regular MNS meeting in August. The next regular MNS meeting will be held on September 21, 2017, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall Community Room. On August 19, 10 AM, the club will gather at the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear, 839 N. 11th Street, for a tour and fellowship.

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: John Bleidorn
Sgt. at Arms: Jeff Gaffke
Trustee '17-'19: Dave Hunsicker
Librarian: Joe Paonessa

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: Lee Hartz
Trustee '15-'17: Tom Dallmann
Trustee '16-'18: Gary Bieringer
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The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road). Our annual coin show is held in October.

August Coin of the Month: We will not have a sale in August. In its place, we show an enigmatic 30 mm, 12.50 gram silver Swiss medal commemorating the 1722 reconstruction of the Armenian Grocers Guild building in Bern. This is a restrike made in 1904. The medal obverse depicts a turbaned merchant enclosed by two cornucopias and the façade of the building on Kramgasse on the reverse. Armenians had an extensive mercantile network stretching from Europe to India in the 18th C, but we don't have any specific information about this guild. The turbaned figure could be an Armenian wearing dress that was common to merchants in the Ottoman and Iranian realms in those days.



August 2017 MNS President's Message

It is hard to believe that the time is upon us to begin planning for our fall coin show, but it is. We are in need of volunteers to assist with the set-up, take down, and registration table duties. Please contact me if you are interested in helping your club, or sign up at the next regular meeting in September. Raffle tickets are also being distributed by Howard T., so please see him if you have not already received them. If your tickets go unsold, please ensure they are returned to Howard or bring them to the show so that we can have them available for sale. Last year we entirely sold out of tickets. As decided by our show committee, this year will be the final year that wooden nickels are made to advertise our show as they do not seem to be effective at drawing people in, nor do many people seem to collect them.

Please remember, we do not have a meeting at Mayfair in August. Instead, we are meeting on Saturday, August 19 at the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear. We will meet at 10 AM to tour the museum. It is located at 839 N. 11th Street in Milwaukee, just west of downtown and fairly adjacent to the Marquette University campus. We will then go across the highway to the newly renovated Pabst Brewery located in the historic old church of the Pabst grounds. This was not yet renovated, nor open to the public last year when we visited Best Place, so it should be very interesting to see.

A membership application was submitted by Jordan Heller at the last meeting. He is from the Milwaukee area and learned about the MNS as a scout who completed the coin collecting merit badge clinic several years ago. We will vote on his application at the next regular meeting in September. I am looking forward to warmly welcoming him into the ranks of the club.

The club is still in need of a volunteer to store the 24 display cases that are used for show exhibits. The deadline for someone to step forward is our club show on October 1, as Tom D. has made it quite clear that the cases are not returning to his home afterwards. Dave H. also announced at the last meeting that this will be his final year serving as the show chairman. We need someone from the club to train with him at this year's show so that they are prepared to oversee the Autumn 2018 show.

I hope that everyone enjoys their month of August and I will look forward to seeing many of you at the Chudnow for our outing on August 19th!

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

MN\$ 2017

Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 19:	Officer Inductions
Feb 16:	Open
March 16:	Rev. Paul Bulgerin: Numismatic Archaeology
April 20:	Dave Hunsicker: Milwaukee Transportation Collectables
April 27:	CSNS Bus Trip (8 AM-5 PM)
May 18:	Spring Auction
June 15:	Expanded Show and Tell
July 20:	Tom Casper: Collecting, Buying, and Selling on E-Bay
Aug 17:	NO MEETING
Aug 19:	Summer Outing at Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear (10 AM) 839 N. 11 th Street, Milwaukee
Sept 21:	Open
Oct 19:	Raffle Ticket Prize Drawing
Nov 16:	Autumn Auction; Election Slate
Dec 21:	Holiday Party; Officer Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2017 are \$10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

2017 Numismatic Events

August 13	Beaver Dam Coin Show 300 Beichl Ave. American Legion: 9-3 PM
August 20	Fond du Lac Coin Show 625 W. Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn: 9-4 PM
September 24	Loves Park, IL Coin Show 1601 West Lane Road Forest Hill Lodge: 9-3 PM
October 1	MNS Coin Show, Serb Hall 9 AM – 4 PM
October 21	MNS Banquet, Alioto's Drinks at 6:00 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM

Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Dave Herrwig
Feb:	Jim Heinrich
Mar:	John Bleidorn
Apr:	Tom Dallmann
May:	Justin Perrault
Jun:	None
Jul:	Gary Bieringer
Aug:	NO MEETING
Sep:	Don Kaminski
Oct:	Pam Talmadge
Nov:	Open
Dec:	Holiday Party

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

July 20, 2017

The 981st meeting of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society was called to order at 7:07 pm, July 20, 2017 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

In attendance there were 30 members and 1 guest. There were 20 winners for this month's door prizes so the odds were in the attendees favor.

The "**Coin of the Month**" was a set of "America's 4 Most Historic Coins" (Bicentennial half dollar, Bicentennial quarter, buffalo nickel and Lincoln steel cent). The set was won by Steve Jacobson with a \$6.00 bid.

The **Minutes** for the June 15, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lee Hartz reported receipts of \$30.00 and expenses of \$450.98 for the month of June. The disbursements were mainly for the Newsletter (\$241.58) and the MNS Website (\$167.40).

COIN SHOW

Tom Casper reported that volunteers are still needed for the 10/01/17 MNS Coin Show. This will be the last year we will distribute Wooden Nickels. The cost is approximately \$100. For Exhibitors, if you win 1st in Show, you cannot show that exhibit competitively for the next 5 years. The Exhibit Application for the Show can be found at the back of the newsletter.

Howard Thorpe indicated that the number of raffle tickets available for sale has increased from 1,200 to 1,700. He distributed tickets to members in attendance.

Dave Hunsicker is looking for an Assistant Bourse Chairman in training. He plans to step down as chair in one year.

The Club is still looking for a place to store 24 display cases.

CORRESPONDENCE

Copies of the Numismatist and Centinel were received.

PROGRAM

Tom Casper gave a presentation on Collecting, Buying and Selling on eBay. Tom actually went to the website and aside from giving pointers of the use of eBay he detailed how to do things. This was a very inclusive presentation as other members joined in to share their experiences.

SHOW AND TELL

Neil Shafer shared with the club a Full Boggs Transaction. Peter Jacobsohn brought in a silver medal, a 1st Day of Issue Stamp and a lace stole acquired from an estate of Julia Ward Howe. She was probably best known for composing the Battle Hymn of the Republic, composed in 1861. Leon Saryan had 2 ANA 25th Anniversary Awards and 2 Armenian Medals. Tom Dallmann showed recent purchases of Greek and Roman coins.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Heinrich, MNS Vice President

Fiftieth Anniversary of Milwaukee Summerfest

By Tom Casper

The summer of 2017 marks the celebration of 50 years of Summerfest in Milwaukee. It has been fun to watch how the grounds have evolved with the festival getting bigger and better each year. Most of us, in our younger years, have been there at least once to enjoy the music and food.

The first year of the festival was 1968. In 1968 and 1969 Summerfest events were scattered throughout the city. It was in 1970 when they moved to the present location.

In a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article from June 28, 2017, the writer mentions the first Summerfest in 1968. During a musical performance, a huge tent collapsed during a storm on July 21, 1968. The newspaper at the time listed 57 people were injured by the falling tent. The reporter sought out some of these injured people. One of them, who was interviewed and pictured in the paper, was holding a Summerfest medal set in a plastic holder. He said it was mailed to him a couple of weeks after the accident. Apparently, everyone injured in the tent collapse received a set of these Summerfest medals.

These Summerfest medals were designed by prominent Milwaukee Numismatic Society member Gale V. Highsmith. The obverse of the 1968 issue was an American eagle above a wavering Stars and Stripes. The reverse, which remained the same throughout all six years was a rolled-out surface of the earth or more commonly called a Mollweide Projection with the location of Milwaukee designated by a star. Highsmith's initials GVH can be seen at the bottom of the earth. The medals are reeded, dollar size and were struck in bronze, nickel-silver, and silver clad. In 1968 1,000 sets were struck by the Franklin Mint. Gale brought sets of these medals to our MNS meeting and sold them for \$5 a set without a holder.

Gale continued to design these medals for the next five years. The following is a list of the obverse designs:

1969 – a Canadian Crown above the Maple Leaf flag.

1970 – the Mexican flag and Aztec Calendar.

1971 – commemorating the 125th anniversary of the City of Milwaukee showing the city flag

1972 – the seal of Milwaukee County

1973 – commemorating the 125th anniversary of the State of Wisconsin

Shown here is the obverse and reverse of the silver-clad 1968 Summerfest medal struck with a proof-like finish. The MNS is proud to recognize one of its entrepreneurial members for striking these medals which helped promote the early years of Summerfest into what it has become, the world's largest musical festival.

They survived a tent collapse at Milwaukee's first Summerfest

By Jim Stengl

There are people who *claim* they were at the very first Summerfest in 1968, much like the Ice Bowl or Woodstock or the Beatles at the Arena. So to find people who truly were there when it all began 49 Summerfests ago, I looked through news coverage from that time on microfilm. Hmm, I thought, there have to be some names of early festival-goers in these articles.

Suddenly, there it was, in the July 22, 1968, Milwaukee Journal, a listing of 57 people who were certifiably at Summerfest for its second day. The story's ominous headline: "Hospitals list tent victims." A huge tent housing the lakefront musical performances collapsed during a storm on July 21, and the newspaper felt the need to tell the whole town the names, ages, home addresses and injured body parts of everyone who got hurt that day.

Many were teenagers or young adults who had come to the lakefront, just north of the War Memorial Center, to hear The Robbs and New Colony Six. Summerfest was scattered at locations all over metro Milwaukee the first two years before settling at the current grounds in 1970. The 300-foot music tent was called Youth Fest.

With the slow death of telephone land lines, it's harder to contact people after half a century. Women are particularly difficult to track down because many changed their last names. Relying on the White Pages online and an actual phone book from a few years ago, I found some possible numbers and started cold calling.

"That would be me," Jack Covert replied when asked if he, by any chance, had been crunched by a falling tent at the first Summerfest. Now 73, retired and living in Brown Deer, he recalls being on stage as a hanger-on with The Robbs. He suffered a cut on his foot when the tent came down. He was the first of several people who told me what arrived in the mail a couple weeks later. Summerfest sent get-well gifts to all the injured, a plastic case holding three medals commemorating that first fest. Some have kept them.

Sandy Haro, who was 17 back then and a Heimermann, said the tent poles lifted out of position and started swinging wildly. One of them hit her head, though she escaped serious injury. "I know my glasses were knocked off," the Brookfield retiree said. "I still remember calling my parents and saying, 'I'm OK and I'm at the hospital.' "

When I reached John Seizer, he joked, "I'm one of the survivors of the first Summerfest! It was primitive then. They just set up big circus tents." Now 70 and living in Whitewater, he, too, was hit in the head but not badly hurt. He remembers people leaping from folding chairs and screaming.

"We were sitting," recalls Michael Steinbacher. "The wind started blowing and the tent started flapping away, and the next thing you know my buddy yelled at me, 'Look out!' And here came the back side of the tent. There were about 2,000 people in there. It was pretty packed." He was grazed in the head by a pole. "I laugh about it now," said Steinbacher, who is 69 and living in the Town of Vernon.

When I reached John Seizer, he joked, "I'm one of the survivors of the first Summerfest! It was primitive then. They just set up big circus tents." Now 70 and living in Whitewater, he, too, was hit in the head but not badly hurt. He remembers people leaping from folding chairs and screaming.

What a thrill it was for 15-year-old Debra Moglia and her friend, Marilyn, to be at Summerfest. Well, at least until she was hit in the head by a wind-blown chair and suffered a mild concussion. She wanted to go back the next night to see the rescheduled New Colony Six. "My dad wouldn't let me," said Debra, whose last name is now West. She has been gone from Wisconsin the past two decades, first in Seattle and now in Aurora, Colo.

All of these early adopters went back to Summerfest in the years since, some more than others. Not a one plans to go this year for the 50th celebration. "Now I'm so old I can get in for \$8," the senior rate, Seizer said. He likes the Moody Blues, but not Summerfest-style. "At this point in my life, if I can't get a good reserved seat up close, I won't go." "It's just that I don't like crowds," said Covert, who is happy to see how Summerfest has thrived.

Steinbacher hasn't been there since the mid-1980s. He prefers the ethnic festivals. "We used to go a lot, but not so much anymore," Haro said. "The music has changed. Back then you followed the music more."

Out in Colorado, West finds herself talking up Summerfest. "I just think it's a great thing about Milwaukee. I miss living there sometimes," she said.

High praise from someone who was conked on the head during her first visit. (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, June 28, 2017)



1968 Summerfest Medal designed by Gale Highsmith and struck at the Franklin Mint



Michael Steinbacher shows off the commemorative medals he was given after a tent collapsed on him and others at the first Summerfest. (Photo: John Klein, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

**Milwaukee Numismatic Society
Celebrating 83 Years
Annual Banquet**

When: October 21, 2017
 Cocktail hour starts at 6:00
 Dinner served at 6:30

Where: Alioto's Restaurant
 3041 N. Mayfair Rd.
 Wauwatosa, WI
 (414) 476-6900

Dinner Options –

12oz New York Strip Steak, Fresh Mushroom, Au Jus.....\$31.25
Breaded Stuffed Breast of Chicken Cordon Bleu.....\$22.50
Orange Roughy, Tartar Sauce and Lemon Wedge.....\$30.00

All dinners include:

Salad, choice of dressing; Whipped, Baked or Buttered New Potatoes
Italian Bread, Coffee, Tea or Milk.

Please make a selection and return with payment to MNS. Mail to:

Jim Heinrich
18435 Harvest Ln,
Brookfield, WI 53045-5446

Your Name..... Your Selection.....

If you have any questions, please call me at (414) 587-9889